

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAI-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00

SY-05 SCCT-01 SSO-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02

OMB-01 /093 W

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P R 281818Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2920

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

ZAN/AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL ROUNDUP

1. REPUBLICA AFFAIR: THE PRESS COUNCIL ANNOUNCED IN AN ADVISORY OPINION ON MAY 28 THAT THE REPUBLICA WORKERS WERE IN VIOLATION OF SECTIONS OF THE PRESS LAW BUT ALSO THAT REPUBLICA MANAGEMENT HAD NOT MET SOME OF THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS. COUNCIL ADDED THAT PRESS LAW NEEDS TO BE REWRITTEN TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH REVOLUTIONARY SITUATIONS. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO SAID THAT REPUBLICA MIGHT BE ON STREETS AGAIN IN DAY OR TWO.

2. PS WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVERNMENT: THE PS ATTENDED A SPECIAL MEETING OF CABINET TODAY ON ANGOLA QUESTION. SOCIALISTS MADE
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SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVERNMENT ON BASIS

THAT THEY WERE THE ONES WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FAILURE OF THE AFM TO CONSULT THE CABINET ON AN ISSUE AS IMPORTANT AS ANGOLA.

3. SOARES RETURN: SOARES HAS RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP TO VISIT EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS. HIS STATEMENTS SO FAR HAVE BEEN VERY LOW KEY.

4. NATO SHIP VISIT: A SMALL CONTINGENT OF NATO SHIPS, INCLUDING ONE US DESTROYER, ARRIVED IN LISBON MAY 28 FOLLOWING STANAVFORLANT EXERCISES. UDP HAS SCHEDULED AN ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATION THREE BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY ON EVENING OF MAY 28.

5. COMMENT: SOCIALIST SOURCES TELL US THAT REOPENING OF REPUBLICA MAY PROVE TO BE "POISONED GIFT" WITH REGO STILL IN AS EDITOR BUT EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED TYPESETTERS. ONE PS WRITER TOLD US THAT THEY WERE THINKING OF SETTING UP A SEPARATE "NEW REPUBLICA" USING OFFSET OR OTHER PROCESS THAT WOULD NOT REQUIRE LARGE STAFF OF TYPESETTERS.

6. PS NO LONGER SHOWING SIGNS THAT IT WILL FORCE A REAL SHOWDOWN WITH MILITARY. A PAPERED-OVER COMPROMISE SEEMS TO BE IN THE WORKS. FACT THAT PS AGREED TO ATTEND CABINET MEETING AND HAS MUTED ITS VOICE SUGGESTS THAT, ABSENT SOME CONCILIATORY MOVE BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, SOCIALISTS WILL COME OUT OF LATEST CRISIS SAVING FACE, BUT WITH NET LOSS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, LAW, NEWSPAPERS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON03000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750186-0806
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750514/aaaaamcc.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL ROUNDUP
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PO, REPUBLICA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006